‘Safe-Siphon’ Mode

Priming & Using the Drinkup / Drinkup Travel Lite

<u>Very Important:</u> The Drinkup / Drinkup Travel Lite should not be used in ‘normal’ or ‘Safe-Siphon’ modes by unsupervised children or adults prior to assessment by a suitably qualified practitioner. Extra care must be taken to assess the User’s ability to control ‘on/off‘ bite actions and therefore, the amount of drink dispensed <u>by gravity</u> into their mouth.

If a person has difficulty coordinating biting, lip seal and sucking actions, has a weak ‘suck ability’ or is completely unable to suck, the Drinkup and the Drinkup Travel Lite may be used in the ‘Safe-Siphon’ mode, taking advantage of gravity. The following notes explain how to set this up, using either;

A) The one-part CamelBak Bite Valve (a blue silicone body – January 2010 onwards)
B) The two-part Platypus Bite Valve (a blue silicone body & yellow inner valve – prior to January 2010)

<u>A) Using the one-part CamelBak Bite Valve</u>

1) Set up Drinkup as described in the Quick Start Guide and User Manual, with the jug/vessel filled with the chosen drink. Position Drinkup on a clean, dry, flat surface above the user’s head height or attach to the Mobilia floor stand. **<u>Very Important</u>: Never use Drinkup without the bite valve correctly fitted i.e. the drinking tube must be inserted 15mm into the bite valve stem and the slit in the bite valve must be vertical to the user’s mouth.**
2) If you intend using the ‘Safe-Siphon’ mode with the **Drinkup Travel Lite** attached to a wheelchair/powerchair – The chair frame is unlikely to extend above the User’s head height sufficiently to allow the correct set-up and gravity feed. Therefore, a propritry or custom-made post/mount may be needed, onto which the Drinkup Travel Lite can be fitted at the correct level above head height.
3) Adjust the arm so the bite valve is lower than the bottom of the jug/vessel. Make sure the slit in the bite valve is vertical to the user’s mouth.
4) Fully insert the bite valve into the syringe adaptor.
5) Squeeze the ‘flats’ of the syringe adaptor, in turn applying pressure to the bite valve inside (this simulates the bite action, lip seal and opening the bite valve).
6) Use an absorbent paper towel to catch any drips or spills and with a single, steady movement, draw the syringe plunger until the drink flows through the drinking tube and starts filling the syringe.
7) As soon as the drinking tube is full and free from any trapped air, stop squeezing and remove the syringe adaptor from the bite valve. The slit in the bite valve will now be closed and will prevent accidental siphon.
7) Make any adjustments required so the user can reach the bite valve comfortably and has a safe drinking position. The user simply bites gently onto the bite valve to start the ‘Safe-Siphon’. The flow stops as soon as the bite is released.

<u>B) Using the two-part Platypus Bite Valve</u>

1) 1), 2) and 3) as above.
4) Remove the syringe adaptor from the syringe. Fully insert the nozzle of the syringe into the slit of the bite valve, so the nozzle completely fills the slit opening.
5) Use an absorbent paper towel to catch any spills and with a single, steady movement, draw the syringe plunger until the drink flows through the drinking tube and starts filling the syringe.
6) As soon as the drinking tube is full and free from any trapped air, quickly remove the syringe nozzle from the bite valve. The slit in the bite valve will close and prevent an accidental siphon.
7) Make any adjustments required so the user can reach the bite valve comfortably and has a safe drinking position. The user simply bites gently onto the bite valve to start the ‘Safe-Siphon’. The flow stops as soon as the bite is released.